

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 12, 20-33, 35, 40-67, 71, 78-91 and 99-119 are pending in this application. Claims 1-11, 13-19, 34, 36-39, 68-70, 72-77, 92-98 and 120-122 are hereby canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 12, 33, 71 and 91 are independent. Claims 12, 20-23, 26, 28, 29, 30, 33, 35, 40, 43, 56, 59-61, 71, 78, 80, 85, 86, 87, 89, 90, 91, 99, 100, 102, 106 and 108-113 are hereby amended.

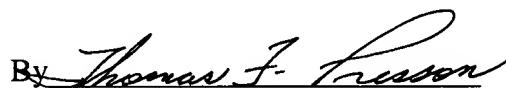
The Office Action indicated that claims 19-32, 39-55, 58-67, 77-88, 98-109 and 112-119 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. The present amendment incorporates the features of allowed claim 19 into independent claim 12. Features of allowed claim 39 have been incorporated into claim 33, which also includes the features of independent claim 12. Features of allowed claim 77 have been incorporated into independent claim 71. Features of allowed claim 98 have been incorporated into independent claim 91. Thus, each independent claim (12, 33, 71 and 91) includes features of a dependent claim that was indicated as allowable.

The other amended claims have been amended to comply with dependency and antecedent requirements.

Applicants submit that all of the pending claims are allowable, as indicated in the outstanding Office Action. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,
FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP
Attorneys for Applicants

By 
Thomas F. Presson
Reg. No. 41,442
(212) 588-0800